

American Citizen Services Newsletter

~ Autumn 2012 ~



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Meet the Ambassador

Ambassador Robert F. Godec, nominee for Ambassador to the Republic of Kenya, is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, and has served as the Chargé d'Affaires at the United States Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya since August 27, 2012.

Ambassador Godec was most recently the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Counterterrorism in the Department of State. From 2006 to 2009, he served as U.S. Ambassador to Tunisia.



Ambassador Godec has also served as a Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs and was Deputy Coordinator for the Transition in Iraq, charged with organizing the transition of policy and operational elements of the Coalition Provisional Authority and the standup of U.S. Mission Iraq.

Prior to his work on Iraq, Ambassador Godec was Acting Deputy Chief of Mission and Minister-Counselor for Economic Affairs at U.S. Embassy Pretoria, South Africa. He has also served as Economic Counselor at U.S. Embassy Nairobi, Kenya, Assistant Office Director for Thailand and Burma in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and Director for Southeast Asian Affairs at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

Before joining the Foreign Service in 1985, Ambassador Godec earned a Master of Arts degree in International Relations from Yale University, as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia. He attended the State Department's Senior Seminar and has received a Presidential Meritorious Service Award, a Distinguished Honor Award and many other awards and commendations. He is married to Lori Magnusson.

U.S. Embassy Nairobi

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Website: <http://nairobi.usembassy.gov>

American Citizen Services Contact Information

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Phone : +254-(0)20-363-6622
After-hours emergencies:
+254-(0) 20-363-6170
Make an appointment through our website at
<http://nairobi.usembassy.gov/service.html>

Absentee Voting 2012

U.S. Embassy Nairobi

Are you registered to vote? Do you want to vote in your state primary and general elections? There are only 39 days until the 2012 General Election! If you want a voice in the November presidential and congressional elections, now is the time to register for an absentee ballot in the state where you're a legal resident. Visit the user-friendly Federal Voting Assistance Program website www.fvap.gov for general instructions on registering and voting overseas. Individual states administer their own elections and each state has slightly different methods and requirements for absentee voters. The links below will take you to voting information for your state.

Alabama	Kansas	Pennsylvania
Alaska	Kentucky	Ohio
American Samoa	Louisiana	Oklahoma
Arizona	Maine	Oregon
Arkansas	Maryland	Puerto Rico
California	Massachusetts	Rhode Island
Colorado	Michigan	South Carolina
Connecticut	Minnesota	South Dakota
Delaware	Mississippi	Tennessee
District of Columbia	Missouri	Texas
Florida	Montana	Utah
Georgia	Nebraska	Vermont
Guam	Nevada	Virgin Islands
Hawaii	New Hampshire	Virginia
Idaho	New Jersey	Washington
Illinois	New Mexico	West Virginia
Indiana	New York	Wisconsin
Iowa	North Carolina	Wyoming
	North Dakota	



If you can't find what you need on your state's website, the Consular Section may be able to help. We can provide information on the absentee registration and voting procedures of your state and assist you in filling out a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). We will even mail it for you, all free of charge!

What the Department of State Can and Can't Do in a Crisis

Living overseas can be exciting, but part of the adventure is the possibility of a crisis. Around the globe each year, American expatriates face a host of challenges: earthquakes, storms, illness and disease, political instability and many others. While Kenya is a great place to live and work, it's wise to be prepared for a crisis. For the next couple of pages, we'll look at services the Embassy provides during an emergency, and some easy steps you can take to prepare your own family for such an event.

How can I get updates during a crisis?

We encourage all U.S. citizens traveling abroad, especially citizens who plan to be overseas for a significant amount of time, to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). We strongly encourage you to enroll with us through Kenya_ACS@state.gov. It is important that you keep your contact information up-to-date so that we can notify you or your designated emergency contact of developments and provide valuable information.



Also be sure to monitor our website, travel.state.gov, for updates, as this is our primary tool to disseminate important information during a crisis. Our Facebook and Twitter accounts are also good sources of information. Rest assured that in case of a crisis, we will make use of all available modes of communication to keep our citizens informed, including the Internet, social media, television, and radio.

Can I be evacuated during a crisis?

The actions the U.S. government takes depend on the nature of the crisis. In some instances, we may only need to provide information on conditions in the country, such as warning about areas of unrest, how and where to seek help, and other useful advice. In more serious situations, we may recommend that U.S. citizens leave the foreign country, and if commercial transportation is not available, provide departure assistance as our resources permit.

Can I be picked up from my home during an evacuation?

It is almost impossible for the U.S. government to provide in-country transportation services to individuals or specific groups during a foreign crisis. You should therefore pay close heed to our travel and safety information for the country you are traveling to or residing in, monitor local conditions, and have a plan of action in case of emergency.

Is the evacuation process free?

Departure assistance can be expensive. U.S. law requires that any departure assistance be provided on a reimbursable basis. Generally, normal commercial travel is cheaper and better than what the U.S. government can provide during an emergency.

Can my friends and non-citizen family be assisted during a crisis?

During a crisis, our priority is assisting U.S. citizens. You should not expect to bring friends or relatives who are not U.S. citizens on U.S. government chartered or non-commercial transportation. Exceptions may be made to accommodate special family circumstances, such as when the spouse of a U.S. citizen is a legal permanent resident, or "green card" holder; however, it is the non-U.S. citizen's responsibility to be sure he or she has appropriate travel documentation and a visa for the destination location.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CHECKLIST

WHEN A CRISIS IS POSSIBLE:

- Discuss contingency plans with family members. Designate a safehaven destination.
- Make a list of items to pack in each suitcase.
- Make a list of items for carry-on baggage.
- Update household effects inventory.
- Consolidate all personal records, financial documents, school records, etc.
- Prepare your house for departure -- secure valuables.
- Plan for pets. Make advance arrangements for their care, food, etc. Keep the pets' records updated.
- Decide how money will be handled. Who will pay bills? Will you continue to use the joint checking account?

WHEN DEPARTURE IS RECOMMENDED:

- Pack luggage with suitable clothing and essential items. Remember seasonal changes/weather conditions.
- Engage the children in packing their own backpacks or carry-on bags with toys, snacks, games, books, and other comfort items.

MAKE SURE THAT CARRY-ON BAGGAGE CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING:

- Medications (prescription and over-the-counter)
- Medical/dental records, immunization cards
- School records, report cards, test scores, and current samples of work
- Current power of attorney
- Birth certificates, naturalization certificates, marriage certificates
- Passports
- Driver's license, auto insurance policies, auto registration, and title, if applicable
- Personal checks, check registers, latest bank statement
- ATM card and credit cards
- Bills/financial records
- Safe deposit box keys
- Address book
- List of doctors, dentists, lawyers
- Travelers checks; U.S. currency, if possible
- Household effects inventory
- Household goods insurance policy
- Personal items and change of clothes



Veterans Day 2012

A Nation's Strength

by Walt Whitman



Not gold, but only man can make
A people great and strong;
Men who, for truth and honor's sake,
Stand fast and suffer long.

Brave men who work while others sleep,
Who dare while others fly --
They build a nation's pillars deep
And lift them to the sky.



Thanksgiving Time

by Langston Hughes

When the night winds whistle through the trees and blow the crisp
brown leaves a-crackling down,
When the autumn moon is big and yellow-orange and round,
When old Jack Frost is sparkling on the ground,
It's Thanksgiving Time!



When the pantry jars are full of mince-meat and the shelves are laden with sweet spices for a cake,
When the butcher man sends up a turkey nice and fat to bake,
When the stores are crammed with everything ingenious cooks can make,
It's Thanksgiving Time!

When the gales of coming winter outside your window howl,
When the air is sharp and cheery so it drives away your scowl,
When one's appetite craves turkey and will have no other fowl,
It's Thanksgiving Time!

American Reference Center Library

U.S. Embassy Nairobi



HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 09:00—16:00
Wednesday: 09:00—13:00
Friday: 09:00—12:00

Closed on weekends and Kenyan, and U.S. holidays.
For current holiday schedule, check our website.

HOW TO CONTACT US

U.S. Embassy, Public Affairs Section
American Reference Center
United Nations Avenue, Gigiri
P.O. Box 606, Village Market
00621 Nairobi, Kenya

Telephone 254-20-3636439 / 205 / 197

Fax 254-20-3636501

Email ircnairobi@state.gov

Looking for

- Biographies of the Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau for African Affairs?
- Designer of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, DC?
- Nike's total world sales?
- Whether Florida has an anti-corruption law?
- The email address of the mayor of Austin, TX?

EMAIL, PHONE, OR VISIT US!

Books are available for checkout by registered members. Application forms are available at the Center or by request, and all American citizens are welcome.

WEBSITE

<http://nairobi.usembassy.gov>

LIBRARY CATALOG

<http://www.librarything.com/catalog/ircnairobi>

Interested in serving around the world as a Foreign Service Officer?

Register for the **Foreign Service Officer Test** and take the exam at Embassy Nairobi!

Learn more at <http://careers.state.gov/officer/selection-process>

U.S. Citizens can apply for jobs at the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi at

<http://americanembassy.myjobsinkeny.com>

<http://americanembassy.myjobsinkeny.com>

Embassy and ACS Office Closures

- Wednesday, September 26th (Administrative Wednesday— ACS closed)
- Monday, October 8th (American Holiday—Columbus Day)
- Wednesday, October 31st (Administrative Wednesday— ACS closed)
- Monday, November 12th (American Holiday — Veterans Day)
- Thursday, November 22nd (American Holiday—Thanksgiving)
- Wednesday, November 28th (Administrative Wednesday—ACS closed)
- Wednesday, December 12th (Kenyan Holiday— Jamhuri Day)
- Tuesday, December 25th (Christmas Day)
- Wednesday, December 26th (Kenyan Holiday—Boxing Day)

Be an Absentee Voter, Not an Absentee Citizen.



Charge d'Affaires Godec casts his absentee ballot



The ACS Section Wants You As a Volunteer Warden for Kenya or Somalia

Wardens play a vital part in our American citizen emergency notification system. Wardens help save lives by disseminating vital security and emergency information to Americans and by notifying the Embassy of unreported issues in their area. If you would like to volunteer as a Warden, please contact us at 020-363-6622 or by e-mail at Kenya_ACS@State.gov.

HAS YOUR CHILD BEEN VACCINATED?

The number of measles cases has increased throughout Kenya. If you have a child in your household, please check with your doctor about your child's measles immunization status.

Follow ACS Kenya and ACS Somalia on Twitter and Facebook!



Kenya Twitter: <https://twitter.com/#!/acskenya>



[ac-](https://twitter.com/#!/acskenya)

Kenya Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/profile.php?id=106703552789700>

Somalia Twitter: <https://twitter.com/#!/acssomalia>

Somalia Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/profile.php?>

This is a quarterly publication from the American Citizen Services Section in the U.S. Embassy, Nairobi.

Please contact Kenya_ACS@state.gov with any comments or suggestions